DOCKET NO.: BELL-0095/00409
Application No.: 09/870,202
Office Action Dated: December 5, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims from which claims 2-11 and 20, and 13-19 respectively depend. Claims 1, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed on page 6, third paragraph, and elsewhere in the application.

Claims 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 10 has been amended solely to provide proper antecedent basis. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Douglas (U.S. Patent Number 5,812,977). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-20 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-20 include features that are neither described nor suggested by the cited art, namely, as represented by amended claim 1:

A method of speech recognition processing that provides audible information over a communications device comprising:
receiving a first speech input indicative of a first subject area;
initiating a first subject application associated with said first subject area;
receiving a second speech input indicative of a second subject area;
storing at least one indicator indicating a current processing step of said first subject application; and
storing a current context of said first subject application in a context table.

Douglas is directed to a voice-controlled system in which subroutines are activated by recognized "initiate task" words. Upon recognition of an "initiate task" word, the system initiates the associated task. Douglas "utilizes a 'pointer' such that the system knows, at all time, what specific instruction of the task sequence of computer instructions is being executed", (Douglas, column 8, lines 3-4) but does not disclose or suggest storing a context

of the first subject application in a context table as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 12.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-20 and

the claims that depend therefrom are patentable. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims

under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is earnestly requested.

Claim 10 has been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over

Douglas. As described above, claim 1, from which claim 10 depends, includes non-obvious

features that are neither described nor suggest by the cited art. Hence, Applicants

respectfully submit that claim 10 is patentable and earnestly request the withdrawal of the 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 10.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Douglas in view of Grant (U.S. Patent Number 6,208,972). It is respectfully submitted that

claim 13 is patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, from which claim 13 depends, includes features that are neither described

nor suggested by the cited art. As described above, the present invention as embodied in

these claims includes "storing a current context of said first subject application in a context

table". None of the prior art, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests these

features.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, "Douglas...does not teach a context table as

recited in claim 13." (Office Action, page 9). Moreover, Grant does not cure the deficiencies

of Douglas.

Grant describes an interface in which input is parsed for commands. A *process

registration table* contains *all the commands that are valid* for an active process. The input

command is compared to entries in the process registration table in order to determine if the

current command is valid for the active process. If the current command is invalid for the

active process, the process for which the current command is valid is activated. While Grant

determines that a command does not belong to a process by accessing a table, it does not

store the current context data of an application in a context table. Hence, Applicants submit

that claim 13 is allowable and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) is respectfully requested.
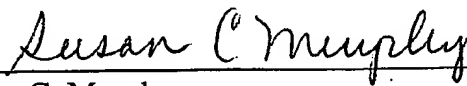
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   In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that

the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and

an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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